



Department of Justice

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Grand Forks Man Sentenced on Child Pornography Charge

FARGO - United States Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon announced that on February 24, 2011, **Timothy J. Olson** of Grand Forks, North Dakota was sentenced before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on a charge of possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

Olson, 37, pleaded guilty on November 29, 2010, to possessing 2,121 image files and nine video files depicting children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Olson had been previously convicted in Grand Forks County Court and sentenced to 30 years' incarceration for continuous sexual abuse of a child. A law enforcement forensic examination of Olson's computer, in connection with that case, revealed approximately 2,121 image files and nine video files depicting children engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Following the forensic examination of the computer, a Homeland Security Investigations special agent interviewed Olson at the North Dakota State Penitentiary where Olson is serving his state sentence for sexual abuse. During this interview, Olson admitted to downloading child pornography on his computer.

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Olson Sentenced

Judge Erickson sentenced Olson to nine years' imprisonment to run consecutive to his 30-year state sentence. Judge Erickson further ordered that Olson's federal sentence be followed a lifetime of supervised release. Olson was also ordered to pay restitution of \$2000 to a victim depicted in the child pornography and a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Homeland Security Investigations and the Grand Forks Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl prosecuted the case.

This case was brought as a part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, visit

www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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